



## Let the games begin for the Aruba Beach Tennis and Foot Volley Tournaments for 2005!

Aruba's beaches are filled with professional tennis and soccer superstars from Holland, all taking part in the Beach Tennis and Foot Volley Tournaments taking place over the weekend. Hundreds of island residents and visitors are also competing in the Beach Tennis games located across from the Tulip Restaurant on Eagle Beach. A beautiful stadium has been set up on the beach in front of the Moomba Beach Bar and Restaurant adjacent to the Marriott Surf Club at a cost of 150,000 Euros, and admission for all the events gratis.

On Wednesday some of the biggest names in European soccer circuit arrived on the island and have been giving demonstration games and competing in the qualifying rounds since Friday. They also conducted workshops with Aruba's youth and soccer hopefuls. Today will see the Quarter, Semi and Final Beach Foot Volley matches on the center court beginning at 10 am. Comfortable shaded bleachers await any who care to come and cheer on their favorite players as they compete in this grueling sport under the hot tropical sun. Johnny Heitinga, Pascal Bosschaart, Danny Landzaat, Phillip Cocu, Frank and Ronald de Boer, Andre Ooijer, Wilfred Bouma, Nigel de Jong, Roy Mackaay, Dirk Kuijt, Pierre van Hooijdonk, Arjen Robben, Gerald Sibon and Marc van Hintum are only a few of the big names in Soccer that have been battling it out over the last two days. Who will end up in center court for the final match, today will tell, but as good as they are as soccer players, many are completely new to the sport of Foot/Volley, which is volleyball played by the soccer rule of no hands, only heads and shoulders can be used to hit the ball. Marc van Hintum, a four-time veteran to the Aruba games, and in Cadiz, Spain, confessed that the sport has its good and bad points. "Beach Foot/Volley ball is totally different than soccer, using different sets of muscles, and you play in bursts. You will have a minute or two of a rally, working for a point, and then afterwards the player is really tired, because you have to fight for every point. The weather is definitely a factor, but in the long run it is not as tough as soccer, because your opponents are on the other side of the net and they can't foul you. Playing in the sand and heat may be hard, but the bad injuries one can sustain playing soccer aren't a problem here."

Today the center court at Palm Beach will also host a special demonstration of Beach Tennis by top tennis pros John van Lottum, Tom Nijssen, Ralph Kok and Martin Koek. It will be tennis excitement at its best, in the convivial surroundings of Moomba Beach. For the past few days, tennis buffs have enjoyed the celebrity play and nighttime events down at Eagle Beach with live music by Talent Limited. Lead singer Sjoerd van der Vaart and lead guitarist Peter Berends proved they had unlimited talent when they aren't leading their daily lives as phys ed coach/physical therapist and veterinarian.

Today is the culmination of days of celebrity athletics and fun activities, but the final action will be tomorrow on The Links at the Divi, as the golf course hosts the MeesPierson Golf Tournament. The events are being covered live on radio by local station Magic FM, and will be broadcast on television in Holland in twelve segments by De Mol Productions. The week's activities are a major media event in Europe, having attracted several magazine reporters and photographers from the continent that are here chronicling all the action. For those that are lucky enough to be here, you can witness it all, and are welcome to join the fans in the bleachers at center court at Moomba Beach.